REYNOLDS TALKS TO THE ANIMALS

THE ACTOR GOES DARK IN "THE VOICES." PAGE 20

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Herb-al essence

The genius of coach Herb Magee

Local legend. Magee's 1,000 wins are just the tip of the iceberg when examining a dedicated coach who has changed the lives of hundreds of players over 48 years at Philadelphia University.

PAGES 26-27

Magee now turns his attention toward making his 28th NCAA tournament. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Priest sex scandal trials resume

PAGE 02

Killer caught by social media app

PAGE 04

Drinking with Jake Johnson of 'New Girl'

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Sweet treats for your littlest valentines

PAGE 23

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Philly priests still face charges over sex abuse

Abuse scandal. Two former co-defendants are still fighting charges related to sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

The fate of the last two priests named as co-conspirators by a 2012 grand jury report alleging the Archdiocese of Philadelphia protected sexual predators remains unclear as the third retrial on one of the defendants begins Wednesday.

Father James J. Brennan, 51, is facing his third trial on charges that he attempted to rape a 14-year-old boy.

Credibility issues with his accuser dogged previous trials. The victim came forward after a decade to state that Brennan sexually abused him during a sleepover at the priest's home.

Meanwhile, his former co-defendant, Msgr. William Lynn, 62, is free on bail pending a state Supreme Court decision on his case.

The two were alleged to have discussed the violation of children in a collegial way, according to a 2011 grand jury report presentment.

"Msgr. Lynn even discussed with Father Brennan 'rumors' that the priest was 'shacking up' with one of his students," the presentment said.

At their 2012 trial, a jury convicted Lynn of endangerment of the welfare of a child, on the grounds that he continued to place priests with histories of abuse in close proximity to children. The jury deadlocked on Brennan.

William Lynn / METRO FILE PHOTO

Quote

"The Superior Court decision was pretty tight and academic."
Williams

A mid-level appeals court freed Lynn from prison, who was one year into his three- to six-year sentence, in December 2013.

District Attorney Seth Williams appealed that decision to the state court in a bid to re-convict Lynn.

"I was surprised," said Thomas Bergstrom, Lynn's defense attorney, of the decision by Williams to fight to re-convict.

"The Superior Court decision was pretty tight and academic, it was sound and logical and right on point," he said.

If the Supreme Court does rule that Lynn could be convicted of endangerment, Bergstrom said they still have other legal grounds to appeal.

"The judge let in a litany of evidence of misconduct by other priests over 40 to 50 years," he said.

Arguments in Lynn's case were held Nov. 18. A decision could be forthcoming as early as next week, Bergstrom said.

The grand jury also named Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, who was not charged and died in 2012; Charles Engelhardt, convicted of sexual abuse and died in prison in November 2014, and Bernard Shero, who is serving eight to 16 years for rape.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Staying warm in the cold streets

Pedestrians walks through a cloud of steam shrouding 18th Street on Monday — caused by warm air from subway vents hitting below-freezing temps above ground. Temps are expected to go up to 40 degrees this week, but back to the low 20s by Friday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Brutal. Boyfriend strangled MU student

Hundreds of Millersville University students have sought on-campus counseling since freshman Karlie Hall was found dead in her dorm room on Sunday morning.

School spokeswoman Janet Kacskos said counselors treated students from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Sunday, and will continue to keep those hours throughout the rest of this week.

"The counselors give the students whatever they need," Kacskos said.

Hall, 18, of Chadds Ford, was found unresponsive around 5 a.m. by Millersville University police officers attending to a reported cardiac arrest.

According to the police affidavit, Hall's boyfriend, 19-year-old Gregorio Orrostieta, was found "kneeling over Hall and attempting to administer CPR."

Orrostieta had "blood smeared on his face and a cut on his forehead, his shirt was ripped, he had visible scratch marks on his chest, blood was all over his hands and on his jeans."

Gregorio Orrostieta, 19
LANCASTER COUNTY PRISON

Karlie Hall, 18 /FACEBOOK

Orrostieta admitted shoving Hall so that she fell and struck her head on a chair, then backhanding her in the face, according to the affidavit.

But on Monday, the Lancaster County Coroner's Office announced that the cause of death was strangulation, and that Orrostieta would be charged with murder. JOHN CORRIGAN

NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'INFO: Here is the schedule for NYFW 2015'

2 'VIRAL VIDEO: "Fifty Shades of Grey" Lego trailer is creepy but good'

3 'Recipe: Valentine's Day chocolate lollipops, the perfect sweet for your sweetie'

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Correction

In the Feb. 5 edition of Metro Philadelphia, we erroneously reported the conviction of Sydemy Joanis. Joanis only pleaded guilty to charges of robbery and firearm charges, not drug charges. Metro regrets the error.

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Killer caught by social media

Pittsburgh. No motive reported yet in teen's slaying or why victim's body was broadcast on the Snapchat app.

Maxwell Marion Morton, 16
FACEBOOK

In a disturbing digital twist, authorities say the suspect in a teenager's murder posted images of himself beside the corpse on Snapchat.

Maxwell Marion Morton, 16, of Jeannette, outside Pittsburgh, was arrested last week in the fatal shooting of 16-year-old Ryan Mangan, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported.

Mangan was shot in the face inside his home. His mother later discovered his body.

After Morton was arraigned to face charges of murder as an adult, authorities disclosed that a key piece of evidence was a Snapchat message that the alleged killer sent to another friend.

Snapchat is an app that allows users to send others brief video messages, which then disappear.

However, the recipient of Morton's "snuff" Snapchat saved the message. That child's mother contacted 911.

According to the Associated Press, Morton also sent the messages, "Told you I cleaned up the shells," and "Ryan was not the last one." No other information about the Snapchat was available.

Westmoreland County District Attorney John Peck did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

Morton allegedly confessed to the murder, and police found a 9mm handgun under his bed, according to the Tribune-Review. No motive was reported.

Morton is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Feb. 19, according to the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

Mangan's funeral was held Monday morning.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Protesters demand that PNC protect country's mountains

Earth Quaker Action Team member tape messages against mountaintop removal outside PNC's regional headquarters in Center City on Monday. PNC is accused of financing companies that do mountaintop mining.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Chester County

SEPTA engineers to voice safety concerns

SEPTA Regional Rail engineers and trainmen will be voicing their concerns about work schedules at a Federal Railroad Administration hearing Tuesday morning.

"We've seen terrible accidents due to sleep deprivation on Metro-North and other railroads, and we want to do everything possible to make sure that doesn't happen here," said union leader Steve Bruno in a statement.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen has said SEPTA runs workers on 14-hour, six-day schedules that can cause "sleep deprivation."

SEPTA has said their practices are safe and that they are hiring to help reduce the number of six-day schedules.

SAM NEWHOUSE

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Feltonville

Five persons of interest sought in homicide

Philadelphia police are looking to identify two men and three women as persons of interest for a Jan. 24 homicide.

The 34-year-old victim was found slumped over the steering wheel of a vehicle on the 4200 block of Macalester Street with several gunshot wounds to his face and torso.

The persons of interest were inside the A Lounge Social Club on the same block leading up to the incident. METRO

Police are seeking these "persons of interest." / PPD

Teacher and activist Helen Gym runs for City Council

Politics. An education activist announces plan to run for a City Council seat.

Helen Gym announces her campaign for City Council on Monday. CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

"Run Helen Run!

Students, parents, family, and fellow activists chanted inside The Ethical Society Building in Rittenhouse Square on Monday afternoon as Helen Gym announced she's running in the Democratic City Council at-large primary on May 20.

"People sometimes ask me if I'm angry," joked the former Olney elementary school teacher. "And I always tell them, 'I am. And aren't you?'"

Gym, 47, who last year Philadelphia magazine named one of the 75 most influential people in Philadelphia, has spent more than 20 years championing social causes. She co-founded Parents United for Public Education, a citywide coalition of parents focused on school budgets and funding to improve public school performance, and launched The Philadelphia Public School Notebook — an independent, nonprofit news service covering the city's public school district.

Also a board member of the Asian Americans United, Gym vowed to make her parents, Korean immigrants, proud.

"We're rejecting a punishing narrative of blame and failure," Gym said. "From the bottom of my heart, things are going to change, starting today."

Philadelphia Federation of Teachers President Jerry Jordan hosted the rally as colleagues, pastors, and a former student spoke in support of Gym, before her three children introduced her to the crowd.

"I was so committed to coming today that when my cab got stuck in traffic, I told the driver to let me out, I'll walk," said Rev. Mark Tyler, senior pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Gym hails from Ohio, but moved here almost 30 years ago to attend the University of Pennsylvania.

Quoted

"From the bottom of my heart, things are going to change, starting today." Gym

JOHN CORRIGAN
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France. Gunmen fire on Marseille police as PM Valls visits city

Gunmen fired on a police car in Marseille Monday in what officials said was a drug-related incident, hours before a visit by French Prime Minister Manuel Valls to hail a drop in crime in France's second city.

Residents of the La Castellane neighborhood were told to stay indoors. A creche was evacuated as troops from the GIPN special forces unit were sent into the sealed-off estate.

Police Chief Pierre-Marie Bourniquel confirmed it was his vehicle that had been targeted. He had gone to the scene after residents reported they had seen armed men in the area. Bullets were embedded in a bank above his car, he said. REUTERS

Quoted

"There were shots fired in the direction of a police vehicle coming from hooded individuals armed with Kalashnikovs."

Local police chief Pierre-Marie Bourniquel

French police officers take up positions at a housing estate in the French city of Marseille. / GETTY IMAGES

Activists against Cosby remain vigilant after Boston cancellation

Cancellations. Another accuser came forward with allegations of sexual assault against Cosby.

Francesca Contreras reads from a list of venues that canceled Bill Cosby's shows in front of Boston's Wilbur Theatre, where Bill Cosby was scheduled to perform. / GETTY IMAGES

Though Bill Cosby canceled two Sunday night shows at Boston's Wilbur Theatre by blaming the snowstorm, local activists feel differently.

"I think [the cancellation] might have been due to the pressure of the media and the interviews we've been having," said activist Brandie Alexander, one of the forces behind an organized push protesting Cosby's Feb. 8 shows. "I consider this a success."

Actress Helen Gumpel, formerly known as Helen Selby, said Sunday that Cosby made sexual advances and lewd gestures toward her in 1988, while she was on the set of the show.

Protest

35

About 35 people turned out with signs and banners.

In a statement he made to his fans, Cosby made no mention of the protests or accusation, saying, "No need to worry, I will be back soon to raise the roof with laughter. I thank you, the theatre staff, the event organizers and the Boston community for your love and support."

However, Alexander said Cosby can expect local protesters to turn out in full force if he books another gig in Massachusetts.

"We're going to keep it up, and if he does decide to come back to Boston we will protest. We will have even more time to organize," she said. REUTERS

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3. Levitra® Prescribing Information, Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals. Revised November 2011.
4. AMS 700® Patient Manual. Information and Instructions for Patients Considering an Inflatable Penile Prosthesis. American Medical Systems. 2012.

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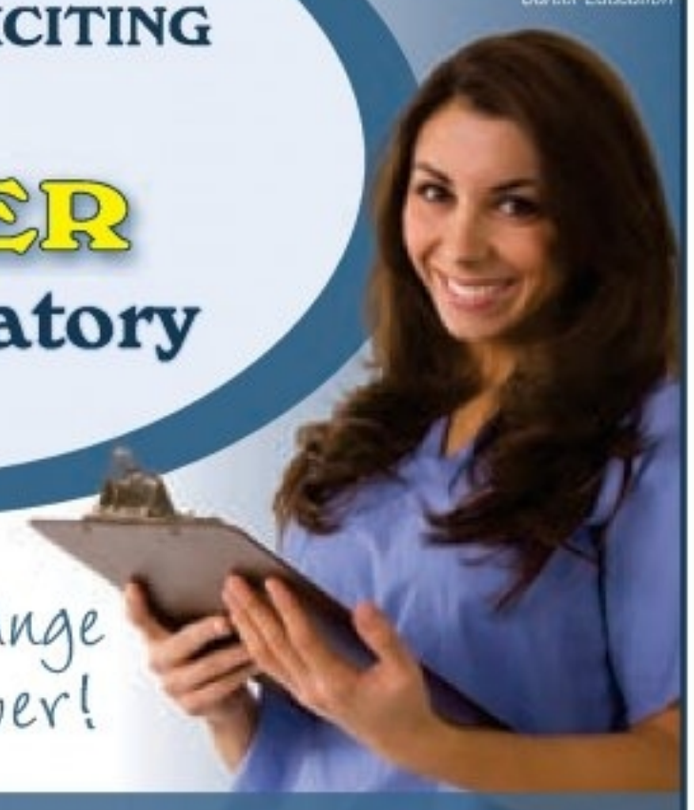

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Pedestrians venture out along the Boylston Street area of Boston on Monday. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

New England shows strains after weeks of heavy snowfall

South of Boston. Some communities had received more than 2 feet of snow by Monday afternoon.

A record-setting run of snowstorms that has pounded the Northeast over the past two weeks has taken a heavy toll on Massachusetts, taxing supplies of salt to keep roads clear and leaving authorities running out of places to pile the snow.

Boston's transit system was shut down Monday evening due to the prolonged heavy snowfall and the city's mayor canceled school today after officials said 73.9 inches of snow had fallen on the city so far this season.

At least four buildings collapsed around Boston under the snow's weight, the National Weather Service said, though no injuries had been reported as a result of those incidents.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker also expressed frustration at the transportation agency's troubles, which included a train that got stuck in snow during the morning rush hour with 48 passengers on board.

"When the weather's bad, as it has been lately, the public transportation system needs to work," Baker said. "Let's face it, this can't happen again."

REUTERS

Quoted

"These are unprecedented levels of snow that have fallen over the past 14 days, there's no doubt about that."

Baker told reporters

West Coast weather. Heavy rains cause flooding and mudslides

A powerful Pacific storm system that drenched California was moving across the Pacific Northwest on Monday, as crews in Oregon and Washington worked to clear flooded roads and railroad tracks blocked by mudslides.

The storm system, called the Pineapple Express because it gathers moisture as it moves across the Pacific Ocean from near Hawaii, had dropped up to 13 inches of rain since Wednesday, the National Weather Service said.

"This is the last piece of energy that's rotating with this system that went through California and Oregon and is moving through Washington now," said Jim Hayes, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Heavy rain has spurred mudslides and flooding across the region.

In Washington, two mudslides on Saturday covered railroad tracks in different parts of the state, shutting down Amtrak service between Seattle and the suburb of Everett, and between Kelso and Portland, Oregon, the passenger railroad said. Service was expected to resume on Monday.

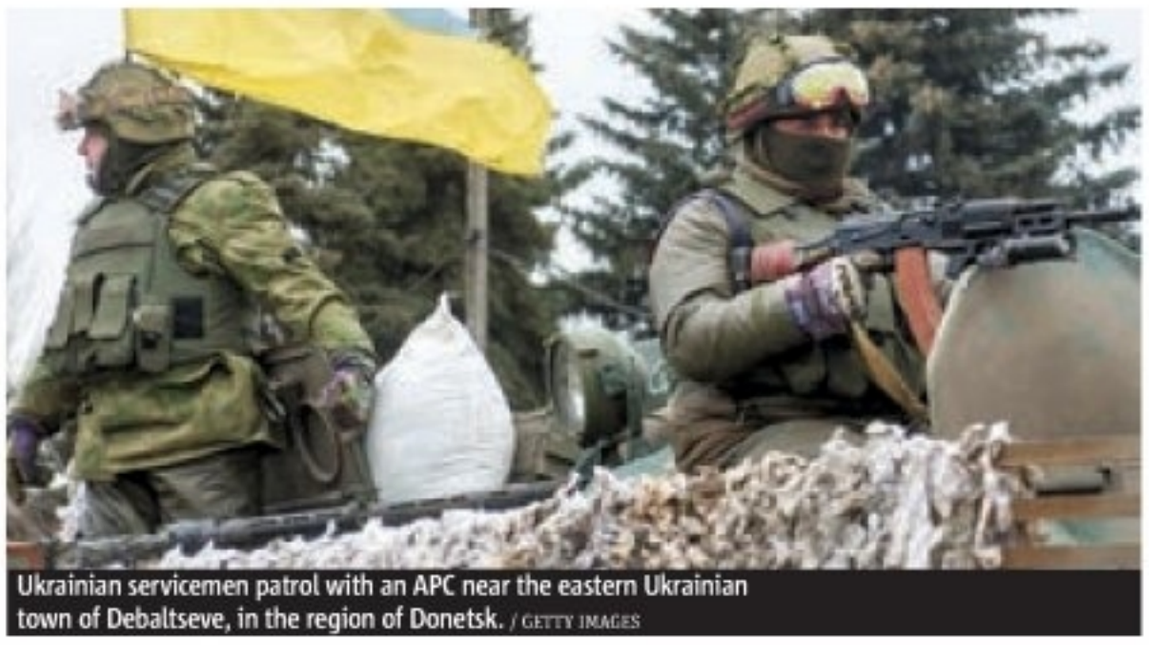
REUTERS

Power outage

2K

The rain and accompanying wind gusts knocked out power to about 2,000 people around the San Francisco-area early on Monday.

President still weighing decision on arming Ukraine



Ukrainian servicemen patrol with an APC near the eastern Ukrainian town of Debaltseve, in the region of Donetsk. / GETTY IMAGES

Moscow. Sanctions imposed by the EU and United States have badly hurt the Russian economy.

President Barack Obama made clear he was some way from a decision on whether to arm Ukraine in its conflict against Russian-backed rebels, saying on Monday he still hoped for a diplomatic solution.

"The measure by which I make these decisions is: 'Is it more likely to be effective than not?'" Obama said at a news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who opposes providing Ukraine with weapons to fight separatists in its east.

Russia had violated a September peace deal by sending more tanks and artillery into eastern Ukraine, Obama said, adding that he and Merkel had agreed sanctions must stay for now and Moscow's isolation would worsen if it continued on its current course.

Merkel is due to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Wednesday with French President Francois Hollande, and European Union ministers held off tightening sanctions on Monday to give the talks a chance.

Merkel and Obama have come under fire from foreign policy hawks in the Republican-controlled Congress who want weapons sent to the Ukraine army.

The Senate and House unanimously passed legislation in December that authorized sending arms for Kiev. Obama signed the measure into law, but it gave him leeway over whether or when to implement it.

Congressional aides said on Monday lawmakers were working on legislation that would commit Obama to providing arms.

But Merkel made clear in Munich her opposition to arming Kiev.

"I understand the debate, but I believe that more weapons will not lead to the progress Ukraine needs. I really doubt that," she said. REUTERS

Troops killed

9

Nine Ukrainian troops were killed in a 24-hour period over Sunday. Seven civilians also died, Kiev said on Monday.

Expert on Minsk talks

'I do not expect quick solutions'

Metro chats with Paul Ivan, an analyst at the European Policy Center in Brussels.

What is expected from this latest round of talks?
Much will depend on the willingness of President Putin to compromise. For the moment he doesn't seem willing to compromise and to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, so I am rather pessimistic. This might as well become a meeting in a series of meetings.

Is it possible that the Russia-Ukraine problem will be solved then?
The Ukraine conflict has severely damaged relations between the West and Russia, so I do not expect quick solutions. Some agreement will hopefully be reached regarding eastern Ukraine but the breach in trust and the disregard to international rules is very serious.

Is it possible that Russia will be liberated from sanctions soon?
I do not expect a quick lifting of the sanctions. If a deal regarding eastern Ukraine is reached, some of the sanctions will be lifted if the deal will be properly implemented. Other sanctions will remain in place given that it's very unlikely that there will be agreement over Crimea. DMITRY BELYAEV, METRO WORLD NEWS

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Ponzi scheme. Payout to Madoff victims is up to $7.2 billion

The trustee liquidating Bernard Madoff's firm on Monday said he is distributing another $355.8 million to the swindler's victims, bringing the total payout to more than $7.2 billion.

Irving Picard, the trustee, said the payout began on Feb. 6, and covers claims by fraud victims with 1,077 accounts at the former Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. Claimants will receive between $431 to $67.1 million.

Most of the payout comes from November settlements with the Herald, Primeo and Senator "feeder funds," which Picard accused of sending customer money to Madoff to further his Ponzi scheme.

The trustee said claimants on 1,160, or 52 percent, of the 2,216 accounts where he found valid claims have been fully paid.

Picard has recouped roughly $10.55 billion for Madoff victims, or about 60 percent of the estimated $17.5 billion of principal he estimates they lost.

Some of that money has been held back because of pending litigation, including by former Madoff customers who challenge Picard's authority to block their competing claims.

Picard has filed more than 1,000 lawsuits against feeder funds, and former customers he has labeled "net winners" because they took out more from Madoff's firm than they put in. REUTERS

Bernard Madoff / GETTY IMAGES

Payout

823.7M

The $7.2 billion payout includes $823.7 million advanced by the Securities Investor Protection Corp, which helps liquidate failed brokerages.

Prison term

150

Madoff, 76, is serving a 150-year prison term after pleading guilty to running a decades-long fraud that was uncovered in December 2008.

Secret Service deputy director steps down

Blunders. It's the latest top level departure this year after a series of high profile security lapses.

The deputy director of the U.S. Secret Service is leaving his post, the agency said on Monday.

A.T. Smith has accepted another position within the Department of Homeland Security effective Tuesday, the Secret Service said in a statement.

Smith has served as deputy director since April 2012 and was responsible for daily operations, including 6,500 employees, at the agency charged with protecting the president, it said.

"Deputy Director Smith has had an exceptional law enforcement career spanning nearly 29 years within the United States Secret Service. His contributions to the agency have been invaluable," said Secret Service Acting Director Joseph P. Clancy.

In January, the Secret Service forced aside four senior officials while another has opted to retire.

The departures represent a house-cleaning within top management. The Washington Post reported last month that some members of Congress had expressed concern to the administration about Smith's continued presence in the top leadership.

An independent review of the agency released in December cited a leadership crisis at the agency and recommended an outsider be brought in to challenge an insular culture. REUTERS

Recent lapses include allowing a knife-carrying man to jump a fence and run into the White House in September. / GETTY IMAGES

Supreme Court refuses stay

Same-sex couples marry in Alabama

Same-sex couples began marrying in Alabama on Monday despite an attempt by the conservative chief justice of the state's Supreme Court to block judges from issuing marriages licenses to gay men and women in open defiance of a January federal court ruling.

Action by the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday helped clear the way for Alabama to become the 37th state to allow same-sex couples to marry. But gay rights advocates said numerous counties took steps to avoid granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

In Birmingham, dozens of same-sex couples married at the courthouse and an adjacent park, where they were greeted by supporters supplying cupcakes along with a handful of protesters bearing crosses and Bibles. REUTERS

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OMG! Handwriting machine can perfectly copy letters in your own penmanship style

Bond handwriting service will solve your handwriting problems. / BOND

Want to send out a handwritten "thank you" note but don't have the patience for it? Now, there's an app for that — with a robotic scribe service called Bond. For a cool fee of up to $500, a handwriting machine will memorize your penmanship style and ink out your messages you've sent via a smartphone app. Metro spoke to Sonny Caberwal, the New York-based entrepreneur behind Bond.

Why copy one's handwriting?
I'm always traveling or on the move, so when I think of writing to someone something nice, I never have a pen, beautiful stationery, or postage stamps at the ready. Bond lets me send that thoughtful gesture from anywhere.

Doesn't it lend to signature forgery and deception?
We definitely take privacy and security seriously, but in reality, forging signatures is much easier and quicker to do the old-fashioned way by simply copying it yourself. We leave our signatures everywhere, on every receipt, etc., so this is not something that we believe will be a major issue.

Do you think your machine will mark the beginning of the end of human handwriting?
No, we think people will always write. We're just reimagining the stationery industry, to make a better product. The personal touch will never go away, no matter how important our phones are. So long as there are people in the physical world, there will always be a desire somewhere to have a physical experience, something you can touch, hold and keep forever.

Is bond one example of what people are looking for today?
Yes. Technology is here now to make a task easier. For example, social media makes it easier to stay in touch and be informed. Cars make travel easier. Bond makes it easier to send an actual note.

WANISE MARTINEZ, METRO WORLD NEWS

Healthy nation

Styles differ but presidents make fitness a priority

Whether the request was for a treadmill on Air Force One, an elliptical trainer by the White House pool, or a rower adjacent to the Lincoln bedroom, when the Oval Office called, fitness trainer Ted Vickey answered.

As the former executive director of the White House Athletic Center during the presidencies of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Vickey served their fitness demands.

While their styles differed, Vickey said each president made fitness a priority.

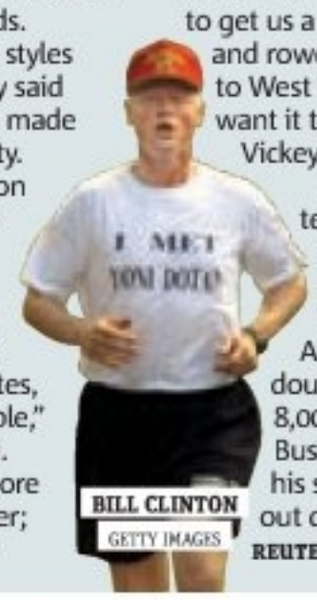
"Both Clinton and Bush were big outdoor runners but Clinton would also like to run outside the gates, talking to people," Vickey recalled. "Bush was a more private exerciser; the elder Bush enjoyed speed golf."

Although the presidents didn't use the Athletic Center, which was built for staffers in 1987 under the Reagan Administration, Vickey was familiar with their fitness routines.

Bush used exercise as a way to manage his day, said Vickey, who installed a folding treadmill on Air Force One so the 43rd president could work out on a trip to Colombia.

Vickey also converted a room near the Lincoln bedroom into a fitness center.

"One day the Oval Office called: 'We need you to get us a bike, elliptical and rower, delivered to West Wing and we want it tomorrow,'" Vickey said.



During Bush's tenure, the size of the member-supported White House Athletic Center doubled to over 8,000 square feet. Bush encouraged his staffers to work out during their day.

REUTERS

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College isn't a non-stop party for these students

First-year college students actually spend less time socializing than in years past. / ISTOCK

Priorities. A new look at what freshmen value.

Turns out college freshmen these days are a serious lot. A recent survey found that first-year students are spending a record low amount of time partying and socializing compared to previous generations and that many are highly focused on their education and planning for graduate studies.

This isn't 'Animal House'

The survey produced by the University of California, Los Angeles, which detailed students' high school habits and their initial perspectives and experiences at college, also found the lowest self-reported rates of alcohol and cigarette use in 30 years among first-year students at four-year colleges and universities.

The 49th annual "American Freshman" study revealed that first-year college students, who grew up during an economic downturn, are working toward financial and educational success.

All work, no play?

At the same time, students' self-reported measure of emotional health dropped to 50.7 percent, the lowest recorded.

"It signals that students are taking their academics much more seriously in high school, and subsequently not providing a social outlet to release stress," says Kevin Eagan, director of UCLA's cooperative institutional research program.

Last year, 18 percent of students surveyed reported spending at least 16 hours a week socializing, and more than 41 percent said they did not party at all.

That equated to a record low amount of time devoted to socializing and partying. Over the last 27 years, the share of students who partied for six hours or more per week plummeted to under nine percent. REUTERS

Beyond graduation

A focus on the future

What are freshmen doing with time not spent at parties? Studying.

Nearly 50 percent of freshmen reported spending six hours or more per week studying in high school, compared to about 34 percent a decade ago. They also spent more time on social media.

In another sign that they are sober about their future, the share of freshmen planning to earn a master's degree was nearly 44 percent in 2014, compared to 28 percent in 1974.

Eagan said it is probably because of their perception that the labor market is competitive, he said.

The survey was based on responses from more than 153,000 students.

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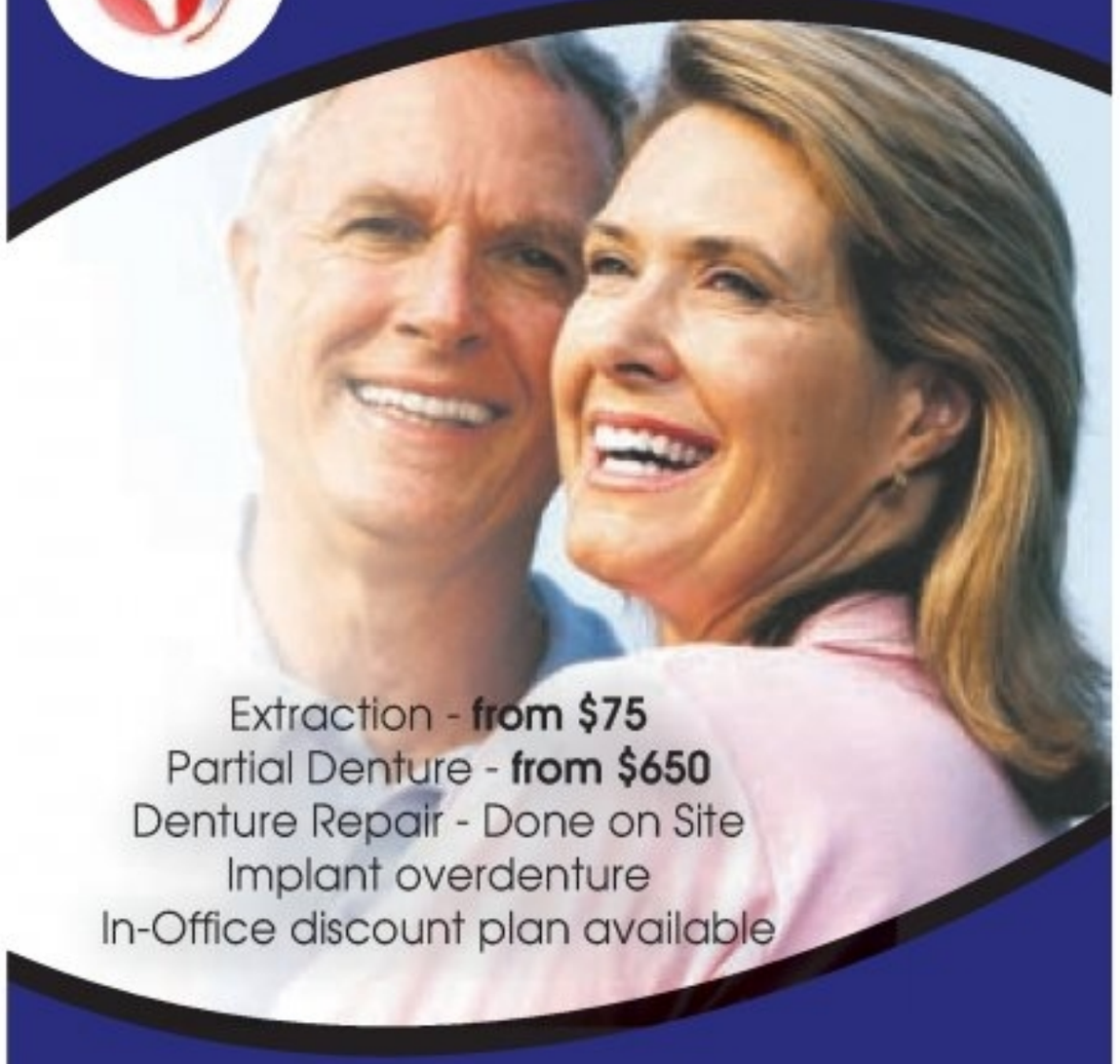

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Life hacks for millennials. Get tips about what debt to tackle first and how to save more

If you're like most 20-somethings (or even 30-somethings), it's probably safe to assume that you've got some debt. Between credit card balances, student loans, and everyday living expenses, getting ahead financially might feel like an uphill battle.

Stacy Francis, certified financial planner and CEO of Francis Financial, shares her tips for prioritizing your debt, building up your savings, and putting yourself on the path to financial freedom.

Our expert says having an emergency fund is the key to being financially secure. / ISTOCK

Tackle credit cards first

"I tell people to pay off the thing that hurts the most," says Francis. "Typically, that's credit card debt because that's going to be the highest interest rate. And the faster you can pay that off, the more financially secure you're going to be." Francis advises tackling the credit card that has the highest interest rate first.

Build that emergency fund

After you vanquish your credit card debt, place your financial focus on growing your emergency fund. Having cash on hand to cover life's curveballs is something you'll thank yourself for later.

"An emergency fund offers the best layer of protection that you could ever have from falling back into that credit card debt situation," says Francis.

"[Millennials] probably don't have money in a 401(k) or have a broker's account that they've been saving into for 10 years." says Francis. "That emergency fund is absolutely key. The only exception is if they feel 100 percent comfortable moving back home with mom and dad in case of a financial emergency." MARIANNE HAYES

Tip

Paying off student loans versus saving for retirement

If you have student loans with high interest rates, you're going to want to knock out that debt first. But, if your budget allows, try and beef up your retirement fund. "Putting money in that plan may be a hard thing to do while balancing paying off student loans, but you should still try and do it if you're getting a match," says Francis. "That's ultimately free money. Think about it: if you're walking down the street and you see a couple hundred-dollar bills sitting there, you're not going to walk by. You're going to bend down and pick them up."

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3 Stock sectors to watch in 2015

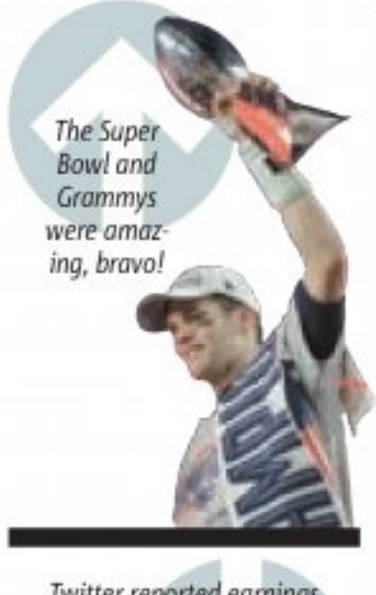
Not all stocks and industries are created equal, and with the world changing faster than ever, you must keep on top of what's hot. Below are three industries that are changing the world now:

Industry #1: Smartphones

Any company that makes useful software and popular applications for smartphones is a good bet, especially companies that can entice millions of users quickly or optimize a smartphone's performance with faster loading. When looking to buy companies in this space, don't worry so much about them having great revenues or profits right now; these are developmental times so the key is creating great products and popularity early on in this emerging space.

Industry #2: Biotechnology

New drugs being created to make us live longer and better will only continue to expand in the coming years as everyone looks for the fountain of youth to cure all sorts of ailments. While there's no one magic drug or medical treatment to cure everything, science and technology are evolving at an incredible pace, and the stocks of those companies that create the most in-demand medicines will continue to soar. The only downside is that this industry is full of guesswork and most startups fail to achieve their goals. Be extra careful when researching this sector and understand any investment here is truly a long shot.



The Super Bowl and Grammys were amazing, bravo!

Twitter reported earnings with slowing growth but made investors excited by highlighting plans to monetize the site. That will make it a worse user experience.

Industry #3: Big Data

Even though we use social media for fun, the companies behind all these platforms are collecting data on us and selling that data to advertisers like never before. Next time you leave a comment on a funny cat video, don't be surprised to see pet food companies advertising to you. It's scary what kind of information we willingly put out there and big data companies are more than happy to categorize it all. In the future, these companies will be laughing all the way to the bank. They don't have to work as hard as was once believed to slice and dice the American public into various demographics, getting to know specific details while selling this information for healthy profits. This industry is just beginning, but I expect big things.

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs.**

What Tim Sykes is into this week...

1 *CNN ran a fascinating profile on Taylor Swift's emergence as a superstar, very interesting!*

2 *Oil is coming back thankfully; if it kept dropping, it could harm our economy*

3 *The U.S. men's soccer team beat Panama for their first win of 2015, goal!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

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CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Jaden Smith is pretty confident, Roseanne Barr calls them like she sees them, Forest Whitaker is keeping positive, Billy Eichner is right there with him and Ricky Gervais is full of parables.

@officialjaden: People Tell Me I'm An Old Soul, But I Will Be Young Forever.

@therealroseanne: beck looks like dana carvey

@ForestWhitaker: I do not believe the darkness of war can triumph over a collective will for peace and light! #SouthSudan

@billyeichner: I consider every one of Beyonce's Loreal ads to be a plea for peace and justice tbh

@rickygervais: Give a man a fish and he'll ask you why the f--- you're going round trying to give fish away. It's weird. Don't do it.

The second weddings are always the best

Johnny Depp and Amber Heard are, like, extra married now. After blind-siding gossip-mongers last week with a surprise knot-tying in L.A., the happy couple headed down to the Bahamas as planned for a lavish, intimate ceremony on Depp's own island, Little Hall's Pond Cay. Photos over the weekend showed a lovely canopy set up on one of the island's several beaches, along with 24 chairs. "Amber did her own hair and makeup, and Johnny was as laid back as usual. But there has been a genuine glow about them since Wednesday, when they officially became man and wife," a source tells the Sunday Express. "They wanted to do it all again on the beach and ... [celebrate] with friends because they love the island and want it to be a continuing part of their lives together."

Depp's island has several beaches, so it's unclear which one hosted the blessed event, but I'm going to go out on a limb and guess it wasn't the one he previously named for ex-partner Vanessa Paradis. That would just be awkward.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Look out, Bieber. Kevin Hart is coming for you

Apparently for the upcoming — and sure to be not at all awful — roast of Justin Bieber, Comedy Central felt it needed someone who could relate to the boy of the hour on his own level. Enter equally diminutive comic titan Kevin Hart, who is stepping in as roast master for the event. "I don't normally do roasts, but I had to step out for my guy Biebs," Hart says in a statement. "It's his big 21. It's about to be Operation Roast Everyone's Ass." And while we appreciate Hart's enthusiasm, this feels like an incredibly safe choice, as the "Wedding Ringer" star is not known for any particularly negative slant in his comedy. Maybe the chances were too great that usual Friars Club go-to host Jeff Ross would've reduced Bieber to tears before the first commercial break.

Daily video

ANTONIO TOSCANO / YOUTUBE

Fifty Shades of Lego

Sometimes all the pop culture noise and nonsense just gets blended up together into one weird, colorful stew. And sometimes — rarely — that stew is delicious.

Take, for instance, this adorably weird trailer remake for "Fifty Shades of Grey," done entirely with Lego figurines and pieces. What could just be an entertaining game of Internet word association turns out to be pretty entertaining. And who knew Lego minifigs had abs?

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
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Jennifer Lawrence, soup aficionada

Jennifer Lawrence is now getting unsolicited help in her campaign to be the most down-to-earth star on the planet. While celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck was giving a preview of his annual post-Oscars Governors Ball menu, he couldn't help offering up a side of a charming J.Law anecdote. "She didn't know who I was," Puck remembers of the 2013 gala, after Lawrence won her Best Actress trophy. "Her publicist said, 'That's Wolfgang Puck.' She says, 'Oh my God, I eat his canned soup all the time!' I thought that was very funny." And charming!

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Katherine Heiny's 'carefree, mellow' writing journey

New release. The writer proves short fiction stories are still relevant.

Katherine Heiny's book "Single, Carefree, Mellow" includes 11 short stories." / LEILA BARBARO

Making it look easy

The very first short story Katherine Heiny ever published was in The New Yorker. Her first book, "Single, Carefree, Mellow" has Lena Dunham — among others — raving. We called Heiny up to get inside the brain of this wildly talented fiction writer.

The short stories in your book all take ordinary experiences, like a children's birthday party, and turn them into something exciting. Do you have a habit of creating stories about people in real life?
Oh, all the time. Ordinary things are really interesting to me. If I'm watching a reality show, and people are fighting about who didn't get invited to a party, that's fantastic. I think if you pay close attention to everyday things, they are often funny.

How does your writing process work?
When I start writing, I get the first line of the story and it always stays in, but it doesn't always stay as the first line. But there's always one line that sticks with me, and the rest of the story will come over a few days. It takes me a month or more to write a short story. … I don't write chronologically; I write little scenes and then I put them together.

Most of your stories are about affairs. What makes you drawn to writing about forbidden love?
My husband is a former MI6 agent, and he was undercover for most of our relationship. I couldn't tell people what he really did. This whole secret life thing was just part of our lives, so that's part of it. The other part is that I'll start writing about something other than the affair, and then I'll add it in to round out the story.

So many writers dream of being published in The New Yorker. How did that come about for you?
I wrote this story while I was in graduate school and sent it all over the place. I got 31 rejection letters. Then a friend of mine said, "What did The New Yorker say?" I told her I didn't send it there. She said, "Katherine, you're supposed to send it there first." So I mailed it off on a Thursday afternoon, and they called Friday morning to accept it. I didn't even know the mail worked that fast. They took it and published it, not changing one thing. … It's like an urban legend or something.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF UNITS IN LIEN

21st Century Storage - 3503 North B Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134
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Property contained in the following units located at 3503 N. B St will be sold via online auction at STORAGEBATTLES.COM on February 26, 2015 at 11:00 A.M., to the highest bidder to satisfy the owners lien for rent under 73 p.s. 1901 et. seq. Auction is with reserve, 21st Century Self Storage reserves the right to set the minimum bids and refuse bids. Cash or Credit Card ONLY. Contents must be paid for 2/26 and removed within 72 hours.

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Shanae Johnston E423	Aaliyah Taggart S119	Chantel Taylor W224
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In "The Voices," now on VOD, Ryan Reynolds portrays a disturbed man who thinks he can talk to his dog and cat. / LIONSGATE

Ryan Reynolds plays a nice killer

Interview. The actor didn't want his animal-conversing psycho in "The Voices" to be just a psycho.

If you're asking, Ryan Reynolds is a dog person. "But I'm only a dog person because they can be controlled," he tells us. "Cats hate me." That's a light way to start talking about his new film, "The Voices," in which he plays Jerry, a disturbed Midwesterner who's off his meds and, as such, talks with his dog and his cat (both voiced by him). Soon enough, and purely by accident, he's racked up a body count.

You had to chase this one down and talk with director Marjane Satrapi ("Persepolis") about casting you. How did you convince her?
I knew there were two other actors who had their hands up for it, who I would argue are much more critically acclaimed than I am. So I really had to get my s— together. I met with Marjane and gave her my take on the guy. One of the things I said was: If there's even one look of menace on Jerry's face, we lose the audience. She seemed to really latch onto that idea, that we have to trust him, we have to follow him and ostensibly care for him. Somehow she, I don't know, found me creepy enough to do the role.

It's hard to classify how you portray Jerry: It's semi-realistic and semi-comedic.
But you can't think of it like that on set. I was trying to create someone who is three-dimensional and not this menacing, scary psychopath, because that's not what he is at all. For me, it just brings out those ideas about heroes and villains. They're given such a raw deal, villains, in movies, because they're always twisting some kind of mustache, figuratively. No villain on earth does that. They don't have a compulsion for evil; what they have is an opposing conviction that you don't agree with. I wanted to bring as much empathy to Jerry as possible. But he's a villain, to some degree. He's the guy you read about in the news and say, "Glad I didn't run into that freak." At the same time, we read those things in the news, and there's a narrative we fill in our own minds. We get to show who that guy is.

Bonus question

Like crazy

Like in "Buried," you spend a lot of time by yourself, but here you're talking to pets.
The crew thought I was nuts. I would do a technical rehearsal and I would act the dog and cat. But then when we shot it, I would only hear the dog and cat lines in my mind, and I would react to it. If you walked on set, you would see a guy talking to himself in the middle of a living room and then yelling at things that aren't there..

RYAN REYNOLDS
GETTY IMAGES

MATT PRIGGE
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Exclusive: Backstage at 'The Lion King'

Broadway. Nteliseng Nkhela gives us a tour.

If only we could all age as gracefully as "The Lion King." After 17 years on Broadway, the groundbreaking theatrical spectacle recently became the highest-grossing show of all time.

The stage adaptation of the animated family film reached that achievement despite the fact that six shows had a higher average ticket price, and at least 15 other shows had higher top-priced tickets. The touring production of "The Lion King" is coming to the Academy of Music from May 20 to June 14. Tickets just went on sale.

We went behind the scenes on Broadway with South African-born Nteliseng Nkhela, who plays the enigmatic Rafiki, to figure out the secrets to this show's indefatigable success.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
letters@metro.us

Visit **Metro.us** for more photos from backstage at "The Lion King."

About 25 minutes before the curtain goes up, Nkhela meets with her personal makeup artist to begin the long process of perfecting her Rafiki look.

Nkhela gives us a glance at her famous megawatt smile when her makeup is finally complete.

ALL PHOTOS BY MILES DIXON, METRO

Once her makeup is complete, Nkhela puts on her headpiece and prepares to get into place for the opening number. Her dressing room is shared, but items on her private mirror show support from her family and friends.

The bamboo fingers are usually the last pieces of the costume for Rafiki — and probably the lightest. Nkhela tells us that the costume is "a little heavy" and "warm," but comfortable. "They should make this a pajama set!" she jokes.

"Before I start 'Circle of Life,' I get very nervous," Nkhela tells us. "I try and find a space before and just be quiet and focus. That's the hardest part of the show for me — the opening number. ... After that, I know everything is easy."

"The Circle of Life" opens the show, with Nkhela alone carrying the famous opening lyrics. She is one of nearly 250 South Africans employed by productions of "The Lion King" throughout the world, including leads, ensemble cast, musicians and members of the crew.

"The Circle of Life" evokes Nkhela's best memories. "During the opening, I can see the reaction of the audience — seeing how happy they are, seeing them get emotional when the animals are coming from everywhere," she says. "It makes me so happy to see them excited."

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Drinking with a true American

Interview. Jake Johnson has some bad news for serious fans of "New Girl"'s trademark drinking game.

Midway through its fourth season, "New Girl" is still finding new funny situations to throw its loft residents into. We met up with Jake Johnson (Nick) at a party and chatted about what's ahead for the show, and naturally, our favorite drinking game came up (it was a party, after all).

Visit **Metro.us** to learn about the surprising romance on deck for Nick.

Will we see more True American this year?
Absolutely. I think we'll see True American for as long as the show goes.

Are you an expert on the game at this point?
Here's the reality, and it's disappointing for fans who want it to be something it's not. I say this as an expert, because I've been in every True American scene, and I was there when it started: There are no rules.

You guys just make it up?
The guy who wrote the first one, Luvh Rakhe, came to set and said, "We haven't figured this one out. It's some sort of a drinking game." We all started saying things that we used to do in drinking games.

So you just throw in anything you can think of?
It's like the chop suey of drinking games. Anything you got, throw it in. If you're playing quarters and want to turn it into True American, you can.

Well, there's a president on the coin.
That's right. That's what it is. You have to say a president if you hit it, then you point to who drinks and that's your vice president. If they don't know the vice president of the president you named, they have to take two drinks.

Anything you can tease about what's coming up on the show?
Justin Long is coming back; Josh Gad is coming back. We got some good stuff coming up. But I think the silent secret MVP of the show is Hannah Simone [Cece]. She's the most underrated series regular on our show and it's time for more Cece.

LISA WEIDENFELD
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Catch "New Girl" Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on Fox.
NICOLE WILDER-SHATTUCK, FOX

GETTY IMAGES

Endgames

A little romance

We just saw Nick get dumped. What's coming up for him?
I'd like to see Nick date a little bit. I'd like to see him find somebody. I just texted [showrunner] Liz Meriwether, "Maybe it's time Nick gets in a relationship." Hopefully she'll listen.

No more Nick/Jess?
I think Nick and Jess should potentially end up together, but I don't think they should do it during "New Girl."

Really?
I think the show has got too strong of an ensemble for it to turn into a relationship show. I think it messes with the dynamics in a less entertaining way, personally. But I like Nick and Jess together. I just think they should find each other when Fox tells us this is our last season.

TV watch list

The "NCIS" team looks kind of confused about what they're doing at this crime scene. / SKIP BOLEN, CBS

COMEDY

'The Mindy Project'

Mindy tries to find a way to tell Danny he's about to be a dad. **9:30 P.M., FOX**

DRAMA

'NCIS: New Orleans'

After a security staffer for the Vice Chief of Naval Operations is killed, the team must decide whether the staffer or the vice chief was the target. **9 P.M., CBS**

REALITY

'Face Off'

The contestants have to use one sense to interpret another, as they'll be creating designs based on sound effects. **9 P.M., SYFY LW**

CANCER
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
HOSPITAL/PHYSICIAN/NURSING
INJURIES/DEATHS
Cancer Delayed Diagnosis/Negligence/Deaths
Brain/Birth/Cardiac/Eye/Hand/Leg/Neck/
Spinal Cord Injuries and All Medically Related
Injuries and Deaths/Medication/
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Valentine's Day treats for kids

It's like a Ding Dong, only better. / ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Recipes. Surprise your littlest valentine with one of these easy-to-make sweet treats.

For you, Valentine's Day may conjure up promises of flowers, chocolates and, if you're lucky, a no-kids night out with your spouse. But it's a day kids get excited about, too — remember when you were a kid, how fun it was handing out valentines to everyone in your class? Or in middle school, sending your crush a carnation or rose? Celebrate the love you have for your kids with one of these recipes from two Pinterest favorites:

Cream-Filled Chocolate Heart-Shaped Cakes

Modified from Worth Pinning blogger Carrie Geddes

Ingredients:
For cake:
- Cake mix
- 1 cup water
- ⅓ cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs

For frosting and chocolate coating:
- ½ cup milk
- 2 tsp. flour
- ½ cup vegetable shortening
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ¼ cup mini chocolate chips

Directions:

Start with your favorite cake mix. Preheat oven to 350 degrees for metal or glass cupcake baking pans or 325 degrees for dark or coated cupcake baking pans. Grease sides and bottom. Blend cake mix, water, oil and eggs in a large bowl. Pour batter into cupcake pan. Overfill the molds so the cake bakes over the tops so you can cut the tops flat with a serrated knife. Bake for 20 minutes. Let cool for 15 minutes.

For the frosting, whisk 1/2 cup milk and two teaspoons flour in a small saucepan over medium heat. The milk and flour will make a pasty gravy. Remove from the heat and allow to cool at room temperature. Cream 1/2 cup shortening and 1/2 cup sugar. Add the pasty gravy stuff and beat for five minutes. Add 1/2 teaspoon vanilla and 1/2 cup powdered sugar. Continue beating until fluffy.

Use a knife to carefully core each cupcake. Fill the centers with the cream. Melt 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips for the chocolate icing and dunk the bottom of each cupcake into it. Thickly coat the tops of the cupcakes with the melted chocolate. Pipe the vanilla frosting to write "love."

Recipe

Sweetheart Cupcakes

Modified from Glorious Treats blogger Glory Albin

First, bake a batch of chocolate cupcakes using your favorite recipe or box mix. (There's a good one at glorioustreats.com.) Fill the liners to 1/2 inch below the top of the liner. While the cupcakes are baking, prepare the frosting by following the below recipe:

Ingredients:
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- ¼ tsp. salt (if using unsalted butter)
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2-3 tbsp. heavy cream, half and half or milk
- Pink food coloring

Directions:
Using an electric mixer, beat butter until it's completely smooth. Add salt, if needed. One cup at a time, add two cups of powdered sugar, beating after each addition. Add vanilla and beat to combine. Add the remaining two cups of powdered sugar, one at a time. Add an additional one to two teaspoons cream and pink food coloring. Continue to beat for another minute or so. The frosting should now be smooth and fluffy.

For the cutout cupcake assembly, use a serrated knife to cut off the top of the cupcake, using the top of the cupcake liner as a guide. Use a small heart cookie cutter to cut out a heart shape from the cupcake dome. Spread frosting onto the cupcake base, in a mounded shape. If desired, sprinkle the cupcake dome with powdered sugar. Place top back on cupcake and press down a bit.

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PLUS

Maternity

A Pea in the Pod releases new Vimmia collection

The activewear trend is hitting the maternity market with A Pea in the Pod's new Vimmia collection. The 9-piece collection has an urban feel, with black, dark gray and slate color blocking and includes sports bras, tops, leggings and hoodies. Everything is available now at A Pea in the Pod stores and online. EL

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Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 An unsettled financial matter should be taken care of swiftly. Don't get annoyed with someone suggesting you need help.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 A partnership is in the stars. Networking will lead to an interesting conversation. Good fortune will enable you to make the most of a financial contract.

Aries | March 21-April 20 Through an agency or institution, you will find a worthwhile project or connection that offers excitement and adventure.

Taurus | April 21-May 21 Going the extra mile will result in added freedom. Explain your intentions and show off your skills if you want to get support.

Gemini | May 22-June 20 Don't let down your guard. Be aware that someone will try to ruin your reputation if you share your secrets. Proceed with caution.

Cancer | June 21-July 22 You can raise your earning potential if you apply for a better position or pick up additional skills. Keep asking questions until you have a better understanding.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Making your home the backdrop for group meetings will be beneficial and will allow you to inject your personal ideas into the plan.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Put your skills to work by organizing an event. If you listen to the complaints being made, you will come up with a way to improve the situation you face.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Excess spending will tax your budget. Put all of your efforts into getting ahead professionally. Devotion to duty will raise your profile.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 A risk will bring unanticipated results. Don't give up on a project that you've been working on forever.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You will not get the whole story unless you ask direct questions. Refuse to pay for someone else's mistake. Get the facts straight.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Your track record speaks volumes about you and your talents. You can achieve your goals by forming an alliance with someone from your past.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

							6	
7					1	9	2	
3			4	6	5			7
			9		4	6		
9		5				7		4
		3	7		8			
4			1	9	2			8
	5	9	6					2
	7							

6			2	8		5		
			7	1		6	4	8
	8					9		
	6				2			
5			8		1			4
			3				6	
		3					2	
8	2	9		5	7			
		6		2	3			5

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Net doesn't pay for itself

Re: 'FCC's Title II will ensure equality for us all' (Metro, Feb. 6-8) Senior undergraduate Danielle Lorentz wrote "with great concern" for the "future of [her] generation," particularly, their success as the "nation's newest members of the workforce." Indeed, upon graduating, Ms. Lorentz wants to "share [her] portfolio, contact potential clients and thrive as a freelance designer." Will her "portfolio" contain ultra-high definition (4K) videos that she wants to "share" by Internet? Probably. Then, is she willing to pay for the expensive boatload of bandwidth and expensive lightning-fast connection required to share them?

Still, what's really needed is not for the FCC to ensure "net neutrality," but the "next thing" for connecting to the Internet, which will be unimaginably fast with practically unlimited bandwidth. What form it will take is currently unknown, but to develop it and make its use widespread and affordable will take money, or "capital," and lots of it. Unfortunately, this capital is largely unavailable because it's misdirected by the federal government. But should the federal government greatly reduce its spending, chances for We the People to soon have the "next thing" for Internet connection will greatly increase. And when it comes, there will be no need for the FCC's Title II (or the FCC, for that matter), which I suppose Ms. Lorentz will find tragic.

ALTON YEE, VIA EMAIL

Visit us online at **Metro.us.**

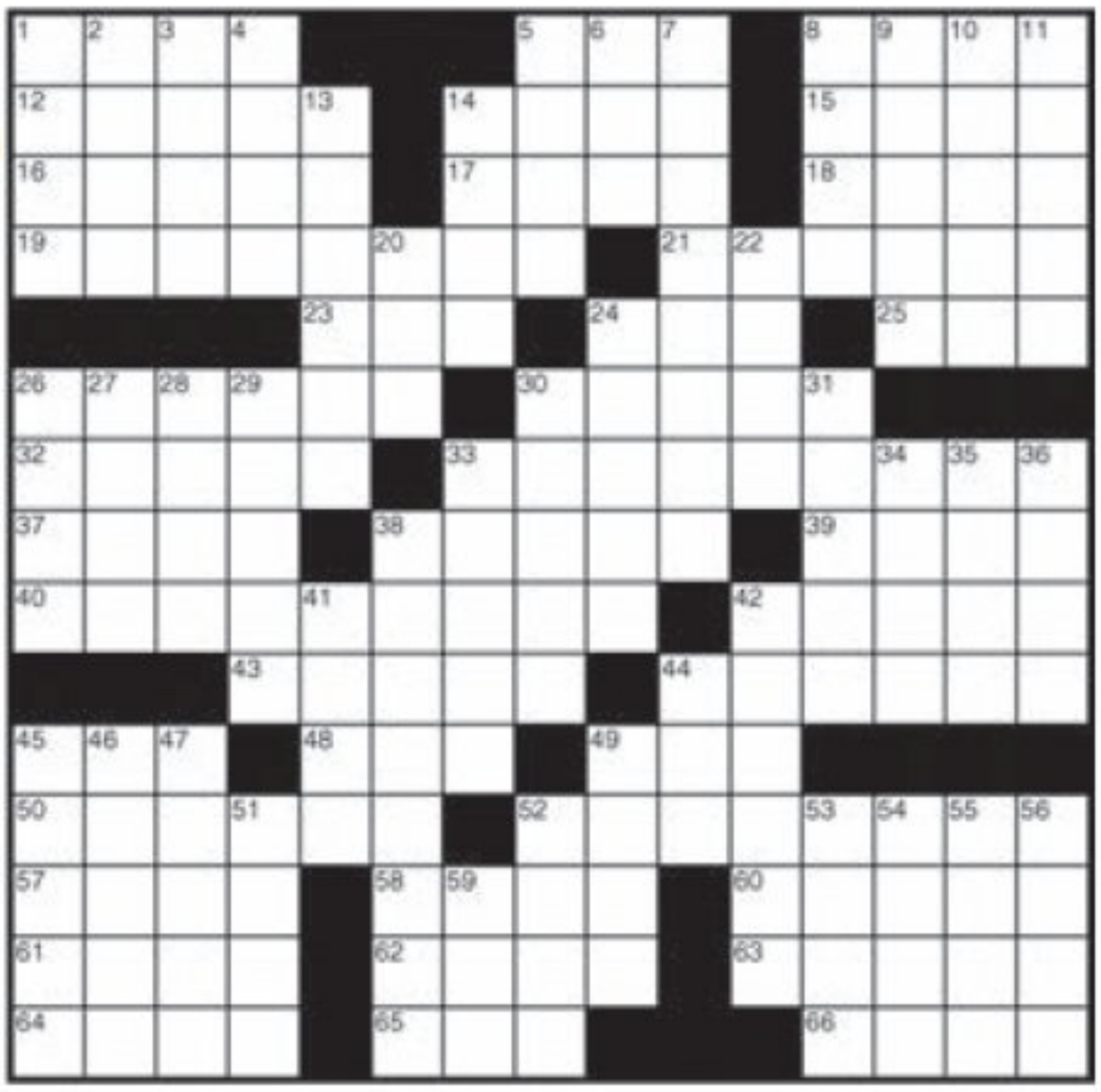
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

Across
1 Haystack
5 Good name for a cook?
8 Hitchhiker's need
12 Wing it (hyph.)
14 Campus figure
15 Keats' tributes
16 "Groovy!"
17 Gym iterations
18 Wire thicknesses
19 Ready to share
21 Dome
23 Snatch
24 Almost grads
25 "— the Force be with you!"
26 Interstate eyesore
30 News morsels
32 Oregon neighbor
33 Icy treats (2 wds.)
37 Fr. miss
38 Objectives
39 Texas town
40 Fuzzless peach
42 Paris subway
43 "Skyfall" singer
44 "Cool!" (hyph.)
45 TV brand
48 Switch positions
49 Karate level
50 Maria Conchita —
52 Basic skill
57 "Primal Fear" star
58 Cartel
60 Video companion
61 Absorbs, as costs
62 Ooze out
63 Scorpion defense
64 "Heck!"
65 Bonn single
66 Herbal soothers

Down
1 Gave a buzz
2 — fixe
3 Plaid wearers
4 Lightweight toy
5 Gazes at
6 Knock gently
7 Removes, as a cap
8 Frolic
9 "In the doghouse," e.g.
10 Perry's girl Friday
11 Term paper
13 It's north of Java
14 Trounce
20 Trireme mover
22 "Semper fi" grp.
24 Pocketed
26 Sketch
27 Groundless
28 Chalky mineral
29 Iota preceder
30 Foolish, plus
31 Farmer, in spring
33 Dirties
34 Pact letters
35 Neutral color
36 Chimney deposit
38 1968 Winter Olympics site
41 Hubbubs
42 Crazes
44 Short-lived obsession
45 Came unglued
46 Unmistakable
47 Ventricle neighbor
49 Evade
51 Wren's abode
52 Sorrel or bay
53 Mongrel
54 Singer — Adams
55 Tijuana tot
56 Duds
59 Aloha token

Yesterday's answer



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NHL power rankings | by Rich Slate

No. 1

Predators (35-12-6)

Carter Hutton did his job to hold the fort and now Pekka Rinne is back, so the Predators are really in good shape. Nashville has the most points in the NHL and their goal-differential is +34. The Predators kick off a four-game homestand (Lightning, Jets, Devils, Sharks) on Tuesday, they are an NHL-best 21-3-1 at Bridgestone Arena.

No. 2

Ducks (34-13-7)

Every other divisional race in the NHL is competitive except for the Pacific which the Ducks have owned since day one this season. They are 12 points ahead of San Jose and have the second most points in the league. Ryan Getzlaf returned Sunday after missing two games with an injury.

No. 3

Lightning (34-16-5)

Few would have predicted it but the race in the Atlantic Division has turned out to be great. Tampa is only ahead of the hard-charging Canadiens and Red Wings by two points apiece. They picked up a huge 5-3 win over Anaheim on Sunday that could have been a possible Stanley Cup Finals preview.

No. 4

Red Wings (31-12-9)

The Red Wings are playing as well as anyone in the NHL. They are 9-1-0 in their last 10 games and they have won their past three contests. Detroit has a tough week coming up as they go to Pittsburgh on Wednesday and then host Winnipeg on Saturday and Montreal on Monday.

No. 5

Blues (34-15-4)

The Blues are a really good team but as Sunday's 4-2 loss showed, the Blackhawks still have their number. You get the feeling that the rivals will meet again in the postseason and you have to like Chicago's chances there. St. Louis hosts Arizona on Tuesday before a trip to see Tampa Bay on Thursday.

No. 6

Canadiens (34-15-3)

Speaking of teams that own their rivals, Montreal finished off a four-game season series sweep vs. Boston on Sunday with a 3-1 victory. The Canadiens outscored the Bruins 16-6 and Carey Price nearly put up his second shutout in a row against them. David Desharnais has six points in his last three games.

No. 7

B'Hawks (33-18-2)

Chicago is only 5-5-0 in their last 10 games but as usual, they tend to show up in the big games such as Sunday's 4-2 win at St. Louis. They have the best goal-differential (+40) in the NHL. They begin an eight-game homestand on Monday versus Arizona, so expect them to go up from here.

No. 8

Islanders (34-18-1)

Does anyone want to win the Metropolitan Division? The Islanders were running away with it for a while, but now that they have struggled (5-5-0 in their last 10, including a loss to the Flyers Thursday), it has opened the door for Pittsburgh, Washington and the Rangers to make a move.

No. 9

Penguins (30-15-8)

The Penguins ended their last road trip with an ugly 5-0 loss in Vancouver. Pittsburgh is 4-4-2 in their last 10 games so they are another club that is going through a tough stretch. A win versus Detroit would certainly give them a big boost moving forward.

3 SPORTS

Net losses

Flyers call up rookie

The Flyers will be without Steve Mason for at least a week, according to GM Ron Hextall. The goalie exited Sunday's 3-1 win over the Capitals with a lower-body injury and will not be active Tuesday night in Montreal. To fill his roster spot, Philly called up 21-year-old goalie Anthony Stolarz from the Phantoms on Monday.

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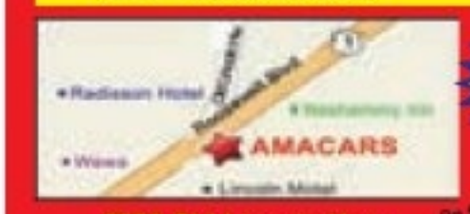

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Magee's 1,000 wins: Nearly half a century in the making

NCAA. Philadelphia University's Herb Magee is the second men's basketball coach in history to reach 1,000 wins.

Magee will likely be joined in the 1,000-win club, sooner or later, by Syracuse's Jim Boeheim (963 wins). / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Move over, Coach K. You finally have company in the neighborhood.

And what an exclusive neighborhood it is.

It took two tries, but with Saturday's 80-60 victory over Post, Philadelphia University's Herb Magee joined Duke's Mike Krzyzewski — whom he's never met even though both have already been enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame — as charter members of the 1,000-win club among NCAA men's coaches. Former Tennessee women's coach Pat Summitt has also reach 1,000 wins.

Yet while those around him revel in the milestone, the 73-year-old Magee has other things on his mind. Namely Tuesday's game at Chestnut Hill, which he hopes will help springboard the Rams into the NCAA tournament. He's just glad the "Herb Scores 1,000" countdown banner hanging in Gallagher Athletic Center is finally down to zero and he can say goodbye to all the fanfare.

"It's a feeling of relief, mainly, because that thing's been hanging up there the whole year," laughed Magee, whose been on campus since arriving as a freshman in 1959. "It started at 15. It's been a tough situation because the hype is there and everyone is pulling for us as a team, but they're really pulling for me to get 1,000 wins because they know how important it is. But our guys have responded. We were 3-4 at one time. Now we're 15-6."

Credit the man known as the "shot doctor" who held the school scoring record for ages (2,235 points in the pre-3-point era).

"I'd heard the name, knew his win total, but hardly knew anything about him," said 6-foot-11 center Peter Alexis. "but he's a great coach. He's taught me a lot these past three years."

That was evident in their 72-70 near miss for 1,000 against Wilmington last Tuesday, where Nick Schlitzer's 3-ball to win it at the buzzer spilled out. Magee admits time almost stood still the next few days leading up to Saturday, where the Rams promptly dug an early 22-11 hole, before turning it on to win going away. And start the celebration for the man who says he won't really reflect on all this until after the season.

The 3-ball is just one of the things that's changed since the then-25-year-old assistant Magee took the reins from mentor Bucky Harris in 1967, winning the NCAA Division II championship three years later. Overall, having taken the Rams to 27 tournaments, 11 Regional Finals, with 11 25-win seasons, it's been "grand."

"I think the kids are a little different," Magee said. "They don't come from high school coaching, but AAU ball. Once you get them they really don't know how to play and you have to teach them. The game's changed because of the shot clock and the 3-point line, but it's still a game to be played unselfishly and defensively. Once your players can do those two things you're gonna win games."

For Philadelphia University's Hall of Famer Herb Magee, it's a formula that's worked a thousand times.

Quoted

"It's been a little distracting at practice at times, with all the camera crews coming in. We were supposed to keep this out of our heads, but it was hard."

Philadelphia University center Peter Alexis, on Magee's chase for 1,000

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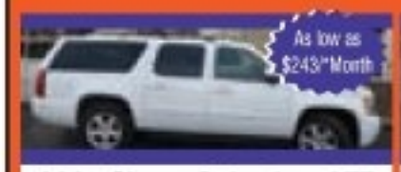
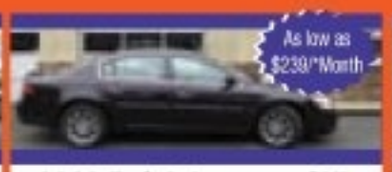
 As low as $243/*Month	As low as $242/*Month	As low as $239/*Month	 As low as $239/*Month	As low as $233/*Month	As low as $233/*Month
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Magee and the Rams will be back at it Tuesday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Family, players aided in Magee's 1K journey

NCAA. Herb Magee's family and former players are proud but not surprised by his accomplishments.

Quoted

"No one who's ever gone here has not benefited from playing under Herb. It's beyond belief that he's won 1,000 games."

Al Angelos, Philadelphia University Class of 1980.

While he'd prefer to downplay it and focus on his team and business as usual, make no mistake — this is a very big deal to those in Herb Magee's inner circle. And it's a circle that just seems to keep widening.

His wife, Geri, says it was wonderful hearing from so many people from the past, even men who preceded him at the school known as Philadelphia Textile until 1999. Chas, the only other survivor among the four Magee brothers who were raised by their uncle after their parents died, says there's not much left for his little brother — who's already been inducted in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts — to accomplish.

His daughter, Kay, who runs men's basketball operations while also working as a math professor at Philadelphia University, says her dad's story is a testament to a man who — once he found a home — decided never to leave.

And his former players — at least 45 of whom turned out when he hit the "magic number" Saturday — say it's his ability to adapt while keeping things in perspective, yet never losing his enthusiasm, that's made him special.

That's what Magee's 1,000 wins in 48 years at Philadelphia University means to them. It's a feat so extraordinary no one — not even Mike Krzyzewski, who started out at Army before heading to Duke — has done it before.

By the numbers

48

Head coach Herb Magee has spent 48 seasons at Philadelphia University.

"To do it year in and year out is amazing," said Ray Tarnowski, Class of '77. "The game has changed. The players change. But his passion never changes. He doesn't want to make a big deal of this. He just wants to win the next game."

And teach his players something along the way.

"It's amazing the career he's had and the way he develops players," said Mike Louden ('89), No. 2 in assists and the school's all-time steals leader, whose son, Mike Jr., now plays for Magee. "No matter how the game changes he changes with it and produces winners every year."

But you'd never know it at home.

"He's been pretty normal," said Geri Magee, during win No. 999, a 77-47 rout of Caldwell. "He just wants to get it over with and get on with the season. He doesn't want to take away from what they're trying to accomplish."

"I think it says a lot for a guy to spend his whole life on one sideline," Kay said. "He's legitimate. My dad chooses happiness. He does not chase it. I'm very proud and happy for him."

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It seems like a distant memory now, but at the end of October, way back in 2008, Philadelphia and its fans were atop the sports world. / GETTY IMAGES

MACNOW: TRIUMPH OF 2008 LED TO THESE LEAN TIMES

Opinion

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The shame of sports is that we can't freeze time. We can't have the story end with Brad Lidge swarmed on the mound, Pat Burrell leading the parade and Chase Utley shouting, "World bleeping champions!"

So we're forced to live through the back end of this bell curve, as the Phillies — division winners five years in a row — endure the creakiness, the teardown, the payback. The celebration down Broad Street fades further in the rearview mirror, and we enter a season in which 100 losses seems possible. Damn, it ended all too fast.

This isn't a column blasting Ruben Amaro. Plenty of time for that all season. Rather, it's my rueful look at the nature of pro sports, where yesterday's toast of the town becomes today's stale crust. We're asked to root for the laundry. But, hey, didn't we swear not too long ago that we'd love this group of guys forever?

There are now just four players left in the clubhouse with World Series rings: Cole Hamels, Ryan Howard, Carlos Ruiz and Utley.

Quoted

"We're forced to live through the back end of this bell curve, as the Phillies — division winners five years in a row — endure the creakiness, the teardown, the payback."

Hamels is likely to be traded for a bunch of kids who don't even shave yet. Ruiz and Utley are only occasionally capable of their former glory. And Howard? The Big Piece, who averaged 50 homers and 143 RBIs from 2006-09, is now the much-booed symbol of bloated contracts and a stubborn refusal to stop hitting that 4-6-3 double play directly into the shift.

There's no turning back time. So we watch this team through the five stages of death — denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance. For what's it's worth, president Pat Gillick is already at Stage 5, declaring the franchise won't contend again until 2018.

I was reminded of the inevitable last week when Kyle Kendrick — the fifth-last player left from '08 — signed a one-year deal with Colorado (where, by the way, his waist-high junk is going to get waxed). This is where my sentimental ode ends: There's not a single player I less enjoyed watching over the era. Kendrick was a painfully slow worker who'd stand with that pained expression as he took every batter to 3-2. Being a Sunday plan holder, it bothered me more that every weekend I went to the park to see Lee or Halladay or Hamels, this nibbler would be standing on the mound, promising us all a three-and-a-half-hour slopfest.

Someday, maybe 2023, they'll have a reunion for our last World Series winner. The Phils will hang a fresh banner and retire a few numbers. We'll get over our grudges and scream like mad for Jimmy Rollins, Jayson Werth and, yep, Ryan Howard. I'll even cheer for Kyle Kendrick.

But that one won't be easy.

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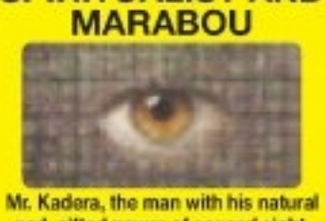
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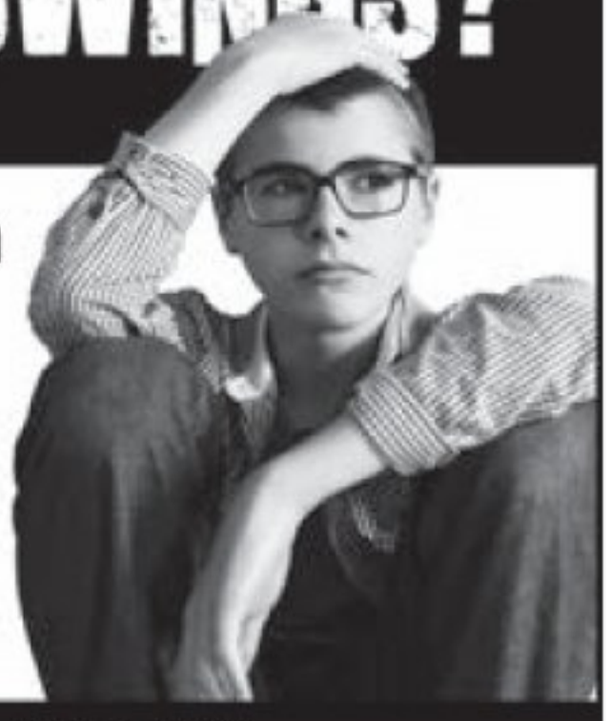

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